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# Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia

Payroll jobs and wages estimates, sourced from Single Touch Payroll (STP) data

Reference period Week ending 8 May 2021

Released 25/05/2021

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## Key statistics

Between the weeks ending 24 April and 8 May 2021:

- Payroll jobs decreased 0.5%
- Total wages paid decreased 1.3%

The next issue of Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia will be released on Wednesday 9 June.

## National

In the fortnight up to the week ending 8 May 2021:

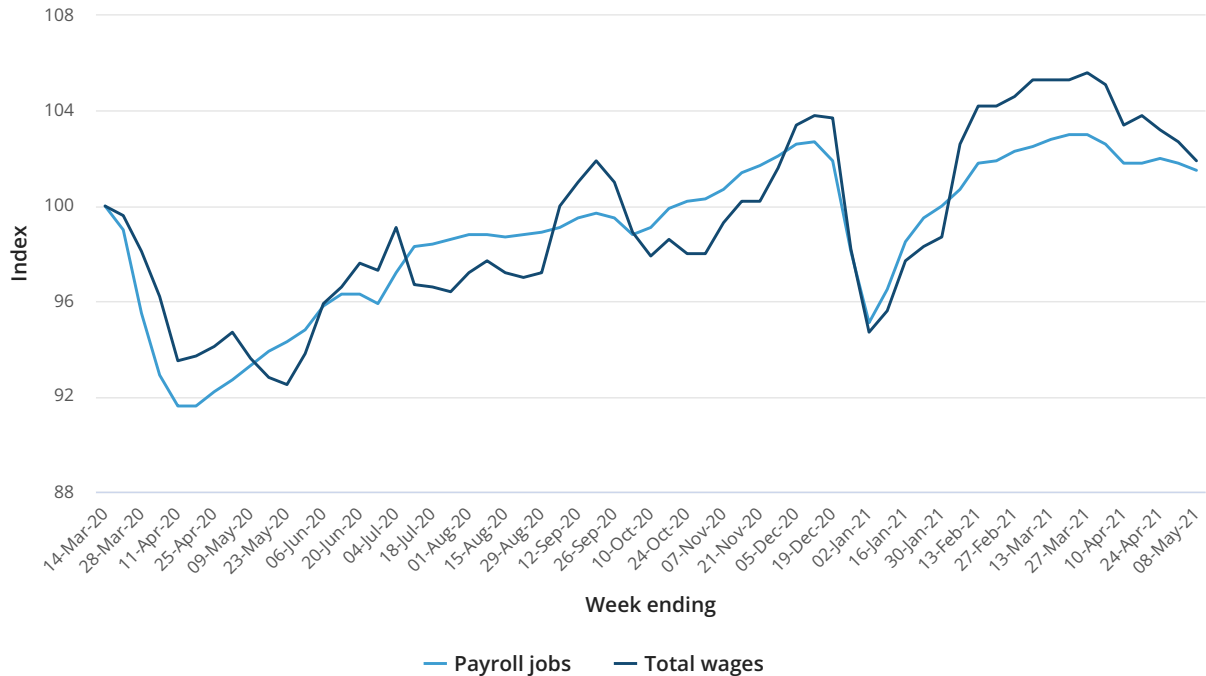
- Payroll jobs decreased by 0.5%, compared to an increase of 0.2% in the previous fortnight
- Total wages paid decreased by 1.3%, compared to a decrease of 0.2% in the previous fortnight

Table 1 - Percentage change in payroll jobs and wages

	In the fortnight since 24 Apr 2021	In the month since 10 Apr 2021	In the year since 9 May 2020
Payroll jobs	-0.5%	-0.4%	8.7%
Total wages	-1.3%	-1.5%	8.9%

Estimates of changes throughout this release are calculated using un-rounded index values. They may be different from, but are more accurate than, movements obtained from the rounded index values.

Graph 1 - Payroll jobs and total wages, indexed to the week ending 14 March 2020 (a)



a. Care should be exercised when focusing on the most recent movements in payroll jobs and wages. For more information, please see [Data limitations and revisions \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-8-may-2021#data-limitations-and-revisions\)](#).

## State and territory

All geographical areas in this release represent the residential address of the jobholder.

The largest changes in states and territories in the fortnight up to the week ending 8 May 2021 were:

Payroll jobs:

- Victoria decreased by 0.8%
- Queensland decreased by 0.7%

Total wages:

- Victoria decreased by 2.0%
- Queensland decreased by 1.7%

**Table 2 - Percentage change by states and territories**

	Payroll jobs		Total wages	
	Change between 24 Apr 2021 and 8 May 2021 (a)	Change between 14 Mar 2020 and 8 May 2021	Change between 24 Apr 2021 and 8 May 2021 (a)	Change between 14 Mar 2020 and 8 May 2021
New South Wales	-0.5%	1.2%	-1.3%	1.2%
Victoria	-0.8%	0.8%	-2.0%	3.2%
Queensland	-0.7%	0.7%	-1.7%	1.1%
South Australia	0.2%	3.6%	-0.4%	4.0%
Western Australia	-0.1%	4.0%	0.6%	0.6%
Tasmania	-0.2%	0.9%	-0.8%	0.9%
Northern Territory	-0.4%	4.4%	0.0%	5.8%
Australian Capital Territory	0.0%	1.6%	0.2%	4.2%
Australia	-0.5%	1.5%	-1.3%	1.9%

a. Care should be exercised when focusing on the most recent movements in payroll jobs and wages. For more information, please see [Data limitations and revisions \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-8-may-2021#data-limitations-and-revisions\).](#)

## Map 1 - Percentage change in payroll jobs, in the fortnight to 8 May 2021

Loading map...

### Sub-state - payroll jobs

Time series estimates of payroll jobs by sub-state regions, Statistical Area 4 (SA4) and Statistical Area 3 (SA3), are presented as index values through to the week ending 24 April 2021 in Table 5 of the Data downloads. These estimates are only updated in alternate releases.

For more information on the geography used in this release, see the [Glossary \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-8-may-2021#glossary\)](#).

### Sex

In the fortnight up to the week ending 8 May 2021:

Payroll jobs:

- Worked by males decreased by 0.8%
- Worked by females decreased by 0.4%

Total wages:

- Payments to males decreased by 1.8%

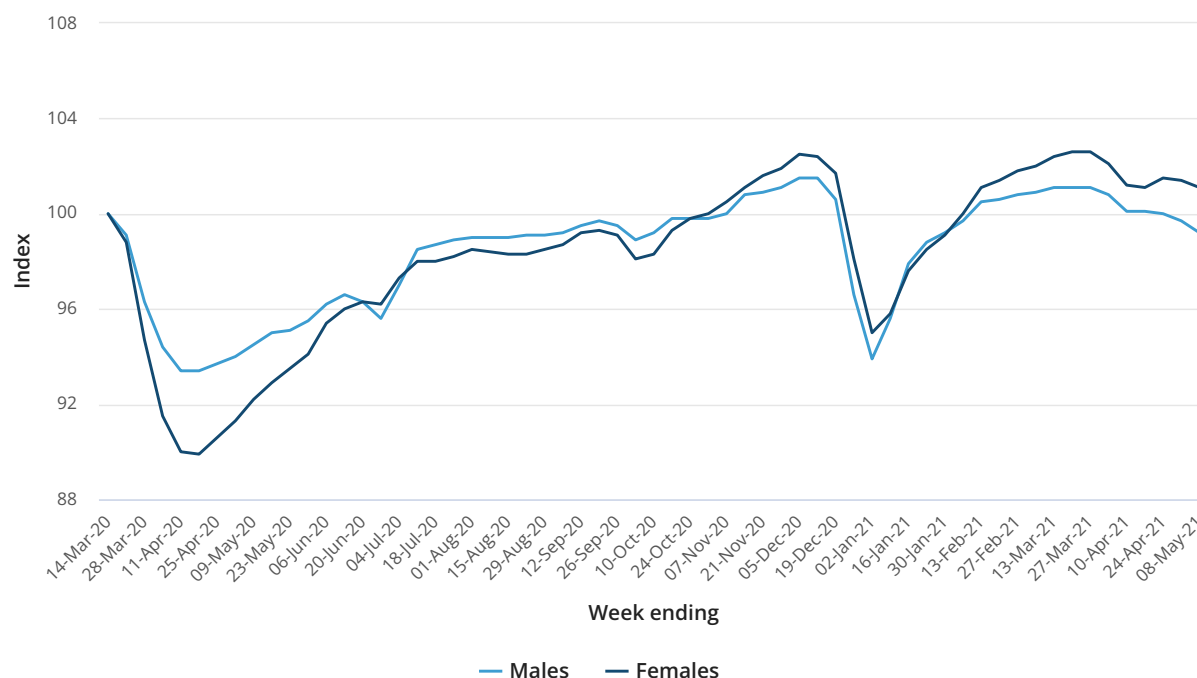
- Payments to females decreased by 0.5%

**Table 3 - Percentage change by sex**

	Payroll jobs		Total wages	
	Change between 24 Apr 2021 and 8 May 2021 (a)	Change between 14 Mar 2020 and 8 May 2021	Change between 24 Apr 2021 and 8 May 2021 (a)	Change between 14 Mar 2020 and 8 May 2021
<b>Males</b>	-0.8%	-0.8%	-1.8%	-0.6%
<b>Females</b>	-0.4%	1.1%	-0.5%	4.6%
<b>All persons</b>	-0.5%	1.5%	-1.3%	1.9%

a. Care should be exercised when focusing on the most recent movements in payroll jobs and wages. For more information, please see [Data limitations and revisions \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-8-May-2021#data-limitations-and-revisions\)](#).

Graph 2 - Payroll jobs by sex, indexed to the week ending 14 March 2020 (a)



a. Care should be exercised when focusing on the most recent movements in payroll jobs. For more information, please see [Data limitations and revisions \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-8-may-2021#data-limitations-and-revisions\)](#).

## Age group

The largest changes in age groups in the fortnight up to the week ending 8 May 2021 were:

Payroll jobs:

- Worked by people aged 20-29 decreased by 1.1%
- Worked by people aged 70 years and over increased by 0.8%

Total wages:

- Payments to people aged 15-19 decreased by 4.1%
- Payments to people aged 20-29, 39-39 and 40-49 all decreased by 1.4%

Table 4 - Percentage change by age group

	Payroll jobs		Total wages	
	Change between 24 Apr 2021 and 8 May 2021 (a)	Change between 14 Mar 2020 and 8 May 2021	Change between 24 Apr 2021 and 8 May 2021 (a)	Change between 14 Mar 2020 and 8 May 2021
15-19 year olds	-0.7%	0.5%	-4.1%	3.4%
20-29 year olds	-1.1%	-0.5%	-1.4%	2.7%
30-39 year olds	-0.8%	1.5%	-1.4%	1.9%
40-49 year olds	-0.4%	0.9%	-1.4%	-0.5%
50-59 year olds	-0.1%	2.2%	-1.1%	1.7%
60-69 year olds	0.7%	6.1%	0.1%	7.6%
Aged 70 years and over	0.8%	5.7%	0.0%	10.5%
All persons	-0.5%	1.5%	-1.3%	1.9%

a. Care should be exercised when focusing on the most recent movements in payroll jobs and wages. For more information, please see [Data limitations and revisions \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-8-may-2021#data-limitations-and-revisions\)](#).

## 5 year age groups

Time series estimates of payroll jobs by 5 year age groups (presented as index values) up to the week ending 8 May 2021 are available in Table 8 of the Data downloads.

## Industry

The largest changes in industries in the fortnight up to the week ending 8 May 2021 were:

Payroll jobs:

- Agriculture, forestry and fishing decreased by 4.3%
- Education and training increased by 3.5%

Total wages:

- Agriculture, forestry and fishing decreased by 5.4%



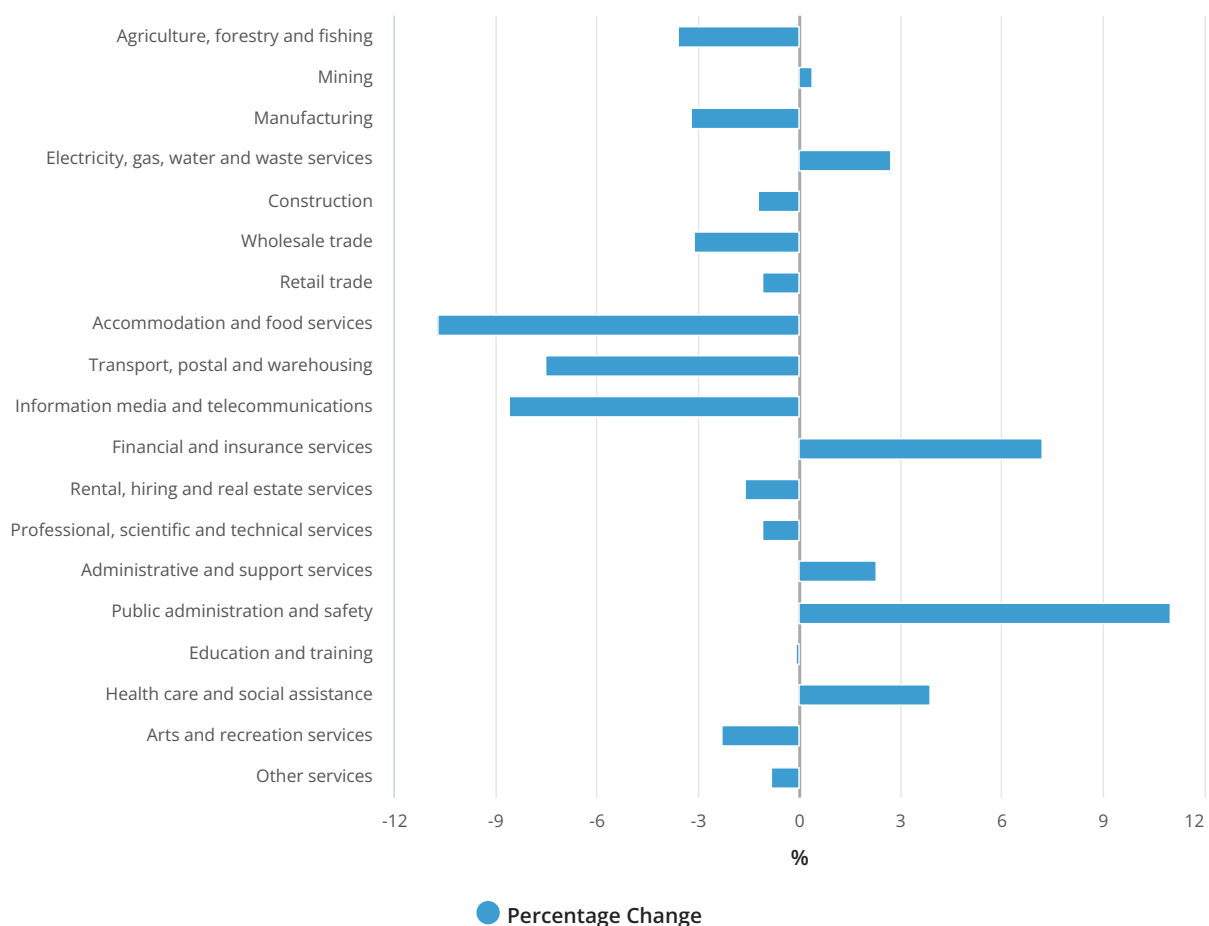
- Information media and telecommunications decreased by 4.3%

Table 5 - Percentage change by industry

	Payroll jobs		Total wages (b)	
	Change between 24 Apr 2021 and 8 May 2021 (a)	Change between 14 Mar 2020 and 8 May 2021	Change between 24 Apr 2021 and 8 May 2021 (a)	Change between 14 Mar 2020 and 8 May 2021
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	-4.3%	-3.6%	-5.4%	1.6%
Mining	0.0%	0.4%	-1.6%	-18.5%
Manufacturing	-1.2%	-3.2%	-2.2%	-4.3%
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	0.8%	2.7%	-0.9%	-3.5%
Construction	-0.4%	-1.2%	-1.1%	-0.7%
Wholesale trade	-1.4%	-3.1%	-1.7%	-4.3%
Retail trade	1.1%	-1.1%	-1.1%	0.1%
Accommodation and food services	-1.0%	-10.7%	-3.2%	-7.2%
Transport, postal and warehousing	-0.4%	-7.5%	-0.6%	-6.1%
Information media and telecommunications	-1.5%	-8.6%	-4.3%	-3.1%
Financial and insurance services	-0.2%	7.2%	-2.8%	-2.2%
Rental, hiring and real estate services	-1.3%	-1.6%	-3.4%	2.8%
Professional, scientific and technical services	-2.9%	-1.1%	-2.6%	1.2%
Administrative and support services	-1.0%	2.3%	-0.7%	7.3%
Public administration and safety	2.1%	11.0%	2.6%	9.7%
Education and training	3.5%	-0.1%	3.2%	2.4%
Health care and social assistance	-2.0%	3.9%	-1.6%	7.0%
Arts and recreation services	-1.2%	-2.3%	-1.7%	-0.4%
Other services	-1.5%	-0.8%	-3.1%	5.5%
All industries	-0.5%	1.5%	-1.3%	1.9%

- a. Care should be exercised when focusing on the most recent movements in payroll jobs and wages. For more information, please see [Data limitations and revisions \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-8-may-2021#data-limitations-and-revisions\)](#).
- b. Wages estimates in some industries may include seasonal bonuses. For more information, refer to the seasonality section of [Data limitations and revisions \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-8-may-2021#data-limitations-and-revisions\)](#).

**Graph 3 - Percentage change in payroll jobs by Industry between 14 March 2020 and 8 May 2021**



**Industry subdivision - Payroll jobs**

Estimates of payroll jobs by industry subdivision were added to this release on Wednesday 26 May 2021.

Time series estimates of payroll jobs by industry subdivision (presented as index values) up to the week ending 8 May 2021 are available in Table 6 of the Data downloads. These estimates are only updated in alternate releases.

For more information on the industry classifications used in this release, see the [Glossary \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-8-may-2021#glossary\)](/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-8-may-2021#glossary).

## Employment size

Recent movements in payroll jobs by employment size are subject to higher than usual levels of revision (over a longer period) than other estimates. This is particularly the case for small employers (with under 20 employees). Further information is presented on the impact of revisions on the small employers index, in Variation in revisions in [Data limitations and revisions \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-8-may-2021#data-limitations-and-revisions\)](/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-8-may-2021#data-limitations-and-revisions).

Table 6 - Percentage change in payroll jobs by employment size (a)(b)

	Change between 24 Apr 2021 and 8 May 2021	Change between 14 Mar 2020 and 8 May 2021
Under 20 employees	-3.3%	-1.4%
20-199 employees	-0.6%	-1.1%
200 employees and over	1.0%	0.8%
All businesses	-0.5%	1.5%

- a. Care should be exercised when focusing on the most recent movements in payroll jobs. For more information, please see [Data limitations and revisions \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-8-may-2021#data-limitations-and-revisions\)](/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-8-may-2021#data-limitations-and-revisions).
- b. Indexes for employment size groups can move independently from All businesses indexes due to the inclusion of records with 'unknown' employment size in the calculation of All businesses. For more information see Data components, totals and index calculation in [Data limitations and revisions \(/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-8-may-2021#data-limitations-and-revisions\)](/methodologies/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia-methodology/week-ending-8-may-2021#data-limitations-and-revisions).

## Data downloads

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### Table 1: National spotlight

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[87.56 KB]

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### Table 2: State and territory spotlight

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[421.32 KB]

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### Table 3: Industry spotlight

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[720.78 KB]

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### Table 4: Payroll jobs and wages indexes

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[2.56 MB]

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### Table 5: Sub-state - Payroll jobs indexes

These estimates are updated in alternate releases. They were last updated on Wednesday 12 May 2021 and will be next updated on Wednesday 9 June 2021.

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[227.74 KB]

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### Table 6: Industry subdivision - Payroll jobs indexes

These estimates are updated in alternate releases. They were updated to the week ending 8 May 2021 on Wednesday 26 May 2021.

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[74.43 KB]

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### Table 7: Employer characteristics - Payroll jobs index

Contains estimates of payroll jobs by employment size, including state and territory dimension.

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[48.15 KB]

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### Table 8: Jobholder characteristics - Payroll jobs index

Contains estimates of payroll jobs by 5 year age groups, available in this release since 3 March 2021.

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[52.76 KB]

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### All data cubes

Updated to include Table 6 as released on Wednesday 26 May 2021

↓ [Download ZIP](#)

[2.87 MB]

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## Changes in this release

A new article on the [Distribution of jobholder and employer characteristics \(/articles/distribution-jobholder-and-employer-characteristics\)](/articles/distribution-jobholder-and-employer-characteristics) has been included, to aid in interpretability of payroll jobs and wages statistics.

## Post-release changes

26 May 2021: Industry subdivision - Payroll jobs indexes (Table 6 of the Data downloads) were updated to the week ending 8 May 2021.

## Previous articles

Previously published articles and information of interest are linked below:

- [A year of COVID-19 through payroll jobs and wages statistics \(/articles/year-covid-19-through-payroll-jobs-and-wages-statistics\)](/articles/year-covid-19-through-payroll-jobs-and-wages-statistics) reviews payroll jobs and wages in the year since Australia's 100th case of COVID-19
- [Year-end data variability \(/articles/year-end-data-variability\)](/articles/year-end-data-variability) provides some context on seasonality and seasonal variation
- [Secondary jobs \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia/week-ending-17-october-2020#secondary-jobs\)](/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia/week-ending-17-october-2020#secondary-jobs) provides insight into multiple jobholders
- [Incorporating JobKeeper supported payments into Weekly payroll jobs and wages in Australia \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia/week-ending-30-may-2020#incorporating-jobkeeper-supported-back-payments-into-weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-in-australia\)](/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-australia/week-ending-30-may-2020#incorporating-jobkeeper-supported-back-payments-into-weekly-payroll-jobs-and-wages-in-australia) describes how JobKeeper payments are included

## Previous catalogue number

This release previously used catalogue number 6160.0.55.001.

## Methodology

[Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages in Australia methodology, Week ending 8 May 2021](#)